

## "Jim" Jackson Rescues Truck Driver From Burning Tank-Truck

James H. Jackson, 28, a resident of Rochambeau Ave., extension, early Friday morning rescued John White, truck driver, from his burning tractor-trailer after it had burst into flames resulting from a collision with several steel guard rail posts along a bridge on Route 17 near the "Bill" Burger farm.

John White, driver of the truck, whose home is in Fort Edwards, N. Y., was badly burned over a third of his body when the fuel tank on his tractor exploded following the one-vehicle accident which occurred around 6:40 A. M., on Rt. 17 about 2 miles West of Andover near "Bill" Burger's barn.

The tanker rig, carrying a cargo of emulsifying oil marked non-inflammable, apparently left the highway on the north side just a short distance on Rt. 17 below the Andover dump, went along the shoulder of the road for over 100 feet and collided with a row of steel guard rails reinforced with steel cables.

The impact broke off several of the guard posts, flattened the others, snapped the heavy cable with the truck then plowing into the earthen bank near the Burger farm milkhouse, coming to a halt in a jack-knifed position partially across the highway.

The force of the collision was so great that it tore the front wheels and axle loose from the truck and probably resulted in sparking off the fire and explosion from the ruptured fuel tank on the tractor, which spawned flames all over the immediate area.

"Jim" Jackson, father of five children, had just finished his breakfast and was preparing to drive to work at the Air Preheater plant in Wellsville when he heard the explosion and dashed outdoors with his jacket in his hand to see what had happened.

On looking West, towards Wellsville, "Jim" told us that all he could see was a glow in the sky which appeared quite close, so he shouted for his wife to come along, jumped into the family car that was parked near the door and drove to the scene. Upon arrival there, he told his wife to go back home and call the Fire Department while he ran up on the small dirt bank in front of Burger's milkhouse and looked down into the remains of the truck where he could see the truck driver, apparently unconscious, with his clothing ablaze.

"Jim" told us, when interviewed, that he hesitated an instant to debate whether he should pull the man out of the cab for fear of injuring him more seriously, but realizing that the driver would burn to death in seconds, he figured it would be best to try and get him out to safety.

He said that he was still carrying his jacket in his hand so he dashed through the flames surrounding the truck, reached thru the open window to cover the burning clothes of the driver with his jacket and partially smother the fire, opened the truck door and beat the remaining flames out with his hands, and pulled the driver out and got him over to the ditch line.

On stepping into the ditch, "Jim" found that the escaping oil was over his shoes and so slippery that he was unable to get the injured man any further, so he shifted to Leon McNeal, another Air Preheater employe, who was

up on the bank having just arrived at the scene, and had him come down to assist him in carrying the burned driver onto the open ground beyond the flaming wreckage.

He then dashed over to Mr. Burger's home and asked his wife for a blanket to put over the driver, and while she was securing this, called the Andover Fire Co., to make sure they were bringing the necessary equipment to the accident scene, then returned to cover the injured man and shouted to some bystanders to start putting the fire out before it burned the adjoining barn up. "Jim" said that these fellows immediately started to fight the fire, with one man taking his jacket off to beat at the flames, while the others were stomping on it.

William Burger, owner of the farm adjoining the road, told us he heard the explosion from his ground floor bedroom, dashed into his living room and saw what appeared to be the whole south end of his barn ablaze.

He immediately reported the fire and then headed out towards the flaming wreckage in time to see someone, who later proved to be "Jim" dragging the burned driver thru the flames to safety. He said that the flames were all around the truck and were blazing up higher than his milk house, so seeing that the driver had been removed to safety, ran into his barn to drive his truck out since it looked to him as if his barn was going to be burned up.

About this time the Andover Fire Department arrived on the scene with their pumper, followed shortly afterwards by the water tanker, and by using this ample supply of water and their foamite quickly extinguished the fire.

Mulholland's local ambulance also arrived on the scene about this time and rushed the critically burned driver to the Jones Memorial Hospital for treatment.

In the meantime Fire Chief "Bill" Woodruff administered first aid to the second degree burns that "Jim" had received in rescuing the driver from the flaming wreckage.

The tractor portion of the truck was reduced to red hot twisted metal minutes after the driver was pulled free, but luckily the trailer part and the escaping oil didn't catch on fire.

Mr White, the truck driver, received fourth degree burns on the right hand, third degree burns of the right arm, chest and right side, and second and third degree burns of the forehead and right side of his head, as well as several lacerations and of course was suffering from shock.

According to a report from the hospital he was in critical condition and was rushed to Rochester for further emergency treatment late Monday afternoon.

Troopers Richard Lippman and Paul Stevens, who investigated, said the truck, owned by Langer Transportation Corp., of Jersey City, was westbound when it went off the right side of the highway. The vehicle traveled along the shoulder, hit five guard rails and a culvert, struck an embankment and jack-knifed into the westbound lane and caught fire. There was no indication of the reason the truck left the road.

Some prospects are misers; they let the rest of the world go buy.

## News That's Print To Fit

We feel that our feature story concerning "Jim" Jackson's unselfish act of heroism deserves a little added comment.

The story was written up just as he and "Bill" Burger related it to us with no embellishments or opinions expressed — "deeds not words".

It seems to us that an act like this should be given all the attention it merits, especially when the person involved is fully aware of the danger involved.

"Jim" is fully aware of the possible peril that is imminent in a truck crash since he has driven them himself and in fact still drives a Keystone gas truck in his spare time. Then too, he has been a Volunteer Fireman for several years and has seen what fires can do.

Only someone who has driven a big truck before, fully realizes how highly explosive those "saddle-tanks" or big reserve tanks that is common on most trucks, whether they use diesel fuel or gas, can be. Also, many trucks have gasoline heaters in the cab, so of course if it is a diesel job, it would have to have a small gasoline tank to operate the heater. Thus instead of the danger of just a seat tank exploding, it could be an extra 2 or 3 more tanks in reality.

We believe in giving "credit where credit is due" so as far as we are concerned, "Jim" should have a lot of it forthcoming.

Next week another election rolls around.

We believe that everyone should get out and vote for the candidate of their choice — after carefully studying both candidates experience, capabilities, records and campaign promises. We are not attempting to tell anyone how to vote — but we would like to see every one exercise their constitutional privilege — and VOTE!

As far as the proposed amendments are concerned — they are presented in last week's and this week's copies of our paper.

We have looked them over, studied them and then discussed them with several people and wish to express our thoughts on them. You may or may not concur with us but at least think about these things before voting.

Amendment No. 1 deals with liberalizing absentee voting. We feel that everyone that is entitled to vote should be allowed to vote somewhere, so, as long as a control is kept so that they vote only once — this might make it a little easier for them — thus we say Yes on this one.

Amendment No. 2 has a lot of good points in it until it gets down to the last clause which looks like a "sleeper" to us. This is: "and delete the present constitutional monetary maximum on the salaries of the governor and lieutenant governor". This would enable giving these officials any amount of money for salary that the traffic would bear — so we say NO! to this one.

No. 3 would be all right if the last word "disasters" is clearly defined. A reserved answer on this one.

No. 4. We have already expressed Editorial Opinions on this one and feel that a NO! is much needed on this one.

No. 5 would make it possible for Villages or Cities to put in sewer systems where hitherto they have been unable to borrow the money, so we think this one is A-OK.

No. 6 would allow a Village to take what action they wanted to on certain penitents so it should be easy to control. Thus we go along Yes on it.

## Mail Closing Time Standard Time

Mail and Train Schedule effective 27, October 1963:  
Train 7 West, arrives 10:17 A. M. Mail Closing Time 9:45 A. M.  
Train 2 East, Arrives 12:37 P. M. Mail Closing Time 12 Noon.  
Train 8 East, Arrives 4:36 P. M. Mail Closing Time 4:00 P. M.  
Train 1 West, Arrives 5:50 P. M. Mail Closing Time 5:15 P. M.  
Truck SR 35184 East, Arrives 6:05 P. M. Mail Closing Time 5:15 P. M.  
All Mail Deposited after 5:30 P. M. will be Post Marked next morning.

## Library News

In memory of Harold Emery, "Spin Fishing" by Evanoff, given by American Legion, Lynch-Burgett Post 397.

In memory of Thelma Hackett, "Scent of Water", Goudge, given by friends. Also in her memory, "Blue Sapphire", by D. E. Stevenson, given by American Legion Auxiliary, Lynch-Burgett Post No. 397.

In memory of Robert Polmateer, "Caravans" by J. A. Michener, given by Wellsville friends.

Other new books: "Bride of Pendorric", Holt "The Venetian Affair", MacInnes

"The Distant Clue", Lockridge "Face of North America", Farb "Potomac Squire", Thane "Ford: Declines & Rebirth — 1933 - 1962", Nevins & Hill "Border Nurse", Dowdell "Orchids for a Rose", Macleod "My Darling Clementine", Fishman

## Legion Auxiliary Notice

The regular meeting of the Lynch-Burgett American Legion Auxiliary will be held at the Legion Hall, Monday, November 4th at 8 o'clock.

Please bring Christmas gifts for the Veterans Hospital, nothing breakable and empty boxes such as Christmas Cards or small boxes to put the gifts in.

The refreshment committee for the evening is: Mrs. Bertha Hardy and Mrs. Reta Myers.

## Notice To Voters

The Town Board of Andover has designed the Grange Hall on East Greenwood Street, Andover, New York, as the official polling place for voting of Registered Voters in District No. 1, for the election held November 5, 1963.

Registered Voters of District No. 2, will vote at the Town Hall as usual.  
Voting hours are 6:00 A. M. to 9:00 P. M.

## Notice To Voters

Public Instructions in the use of the Voting Machines will be available at the Andover Town Hall on Monday, November 4, 1963 from 7 P. M. until 8 P. M. All persons voting for the first time are especially urged to attend.

## Masonic Notice

The Stated Communication of Andover Lodge No. 558, F. & A. M., will be held Monday evening November 4th at 8 o'clock. All Master Masons welcome.

No. 7 Has to deal with an agreement between the Village of Saranac Lake and the State, and if they are satisfied with the swap we can't see any reason why they shouldn't be allowed to go ahead with it, so we think Yes is all right on this last one.

There they are — read them and then vote on them — one way or another — JUST VOTE! That's all!

## Local Man Dies In House Trailer Fire

Andover Firemen were called out early Monday morning for a fire of undetermined origin which took the life of a local man and destroyed the house trailer where he was living.

The man, burned beyond recognition, was later identified as Francis Greene, 48, of R. D. 1, of Andover, formerly from Greenwood.

Around 20 firemen turned out for the alarm at 4:09 Monday morning taking both the pumper and the tanker to the fire, which gave them an adequate supply of water to extinguish it.

The trailer located about a mile South of here on Joyce Hill, owned by Harry Alvord, was engulfed in flames when the firemen arrived.

Mrs. Charles Howland called the firemen after noticing the blaze when she got up to tend to her baby.

Sgt. Raymond R. Slade of the Wellsville B.C.I., arrived on the scene about the same time as the firemen and called in "Bob" Jackson, also of the B.C.I., and Troopers P. W. Stevens and G. W. Knight to assist him in conducting the investigation.

A certificate of accidental death, due to asphyxiation and burns, was issued by Allegany County Corner Dr. Robert Eisenhardt of Alfred.

Mr. Greene, a veteran of World War II, had resided at Greenwood before moving to Andover around three years ago.

Born at West Union, May 30, 1915, the son of Floyd and Ora Brown Greene, he was married to the former Una Morton, who resides in Buffalo.

Surviving are a son, LaVerne of Maine, six sisters, Mrs. Mary Ella Baker, Greenwood; Mrs. Pauline Clark, Attica; Mrs. Esther Dennis, Canisteo; Mrs. Miles Kenyon, Whitesville; Mrs. Gordon Barnard, Port Allegany, Pa.; and Mrs. Clarence Rymond, Knoxville, Pa.; and three brothers, Lawrence and Merle of Greenwood and Clair of Buffalo.

The funeral was held at 2:00 p. m., this Thursday afternoon at the James B. Mulholland Funeral Home with interment in the Greenwood Cemetery.

## Proof Of Pictures

Woltz Studios, Inc., of Dansville will be returning to the Vars Men's & Boys' Wear on Thursday, November 7th from 9:00 a. m. to 11 a. m. to show the proofs of the children's pictures taken for publication in the Andover News.

## Firemen's Notice

The regular meeting of the Andover Volunteer Firemen will be held Tuesday, November 5th at 8 P. M.

## Rebekah Notice

The regular meeting of the Andover Rebekah Lodge No. 303 will be held Wednesday, November 6th at 8:00 P. M. A good attendance is desired.

## PTA News

The Executive Committee of the Andover Central School Parent-Teacher Association will meet at the Andover School Wednesday, November 6th at 8 o'clock.

## New Arrivals

Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Francis Vickers are the parents of an 8 lb. 2-oz. son, John Francis, born Friday, October 25, 1963 at Guam. Mr. and Mrs. Francis Vickers of Elm St., are the paternal grandparents.

# Don't Forget The Senior Play Friday Night, Curtain 8:00 p.m.